

WAR IS HELL

MARVEL COMICS GROUP



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THE WEIRDEST COMBAT SERIES OF ALL!

# WAR IS HELL

A LOUSY DAY  
TO DIE!

BLAZING BATTLE  
ON THE BLOODY  
BEACHES OF  
**DUNKIRK!**



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NATIONALLY ADVERTISED 1975 MODELS  
2 LOADED TACKLE BOXES • 66 DEADLY LURES

**411** PCS.

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Stan Lee  
PRESENTS:

# WAR IS HELL!

CHRIS CLAREMONT / HERB TRIMPE / JOHN COSTANZA, LETTERER / LEN WEIN  
AUTHOR / ARTIST / MICHELE WOLFMAN, COLORIST / EDITOR

TODAY'S A LOVELY

DAY TO

DIE!

THE GLORIOUS FIRST  
OF JUNE, 1940.

THEY BOUNCED HIM OVER THE CHANNEL, SIX ME-109'S DIVING OUT OF THE NOONDAY SUN, HITTING HIM AS HE HEADED HOME FROM DUNKIRK, CATCHING HIM TIRED AND LATE AND LOW ON FUEL, AND FOR ONE BRIEF, FINAL INSTANT— CATCHING HIM LOOKING THE WRONG WAY.

THAT'S ALL IT TAKES,  
YOU KNOW. ONE INSTANT.

THE INSTANT WHEN  
YOUR LUCK RUNS OUT.

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JOHN BRABHAM, SQUADRON LEADER, ROYAL AIR FORCE, GOURMET CHEF, AMATEUR PAINTER, TWICE DARTS CHAMPION OF FIGHTER COMMAND. A GOOD MAN, A BRILLIANT PILOT...

...MADE IMMORTAL BY A THREE SECOND BURST OF CANNON FIRE THAT SMASHED HIS BACK TO A BLOODY PASTE.

HE WAS THIRTY WHEN HE DIED. HIS STORY SHOULD HAVE ENDED THERE.

BECAUSE DEATH IS A CAPRICIOUS... THING. AND HE DECIDED THAT WHILE BRABHAM'S SOUL HAD PASSED ON TO WHEREVER DEAD, UNDAMNED SOULS GO...

...HIS BODY SHOULD STICK AROUND A WHILE, CONSIDER,



...BUT NOT DEAD!  
NOT JUST YET!

BRABHAM'S HAND  
CAressed THE...  
STICK AND THE BAT-  
TERED SPITFIRE  
CLAWED FOR ALT-  
ITUDE...

UNTIL I FOUND A TARGET  
AND THE SICKNESS WASHED  
OUT OF ME AS BRABHAM  
AND I FINALLY BECAME  
ONE...

ME, I LOOKED AT THE  
GROUND. AND I WAS SICK.

ANOTHER SET OF MEM-  
ORIES. ANOTHER LIFE. AND  
I WAS "FREE" AGAIN,  
FOR A WHILE.

AND THE FIRST THING I DID  
WITH MY NEW LIFE...

...WAS TO TRY AND  
KILL A MAN.

BUDDA-  
DADA-  
DADA-  
DADA



'S FUNNY. WHEN I WAS A GYRENE,  
KILLING WAS NO SWEAT. IT CAME WITH THE  
TERRITORY. IT WAS LOUSY, SURE, BUT  
IT WAS MY JOB...

NOW I'M NOT  
SO... SURE.

NOT THAT I HAD MUCH  
TIME TO THINK ABOUT IT.

'CAUSE THE ODDS WERE STILL  
FOUR-TO-ONE AND THE KRAUTS  
WERE OUT FOR BLOOD TODAY. MINE!

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THAT'S THE NICE THING ABOUT  
ALREADY BEING DEAD...

...DYING REALLY ISN'T AS  
HARD THE SECOND TIME  
AROUND.

FALLING,  
ON THE  
OTHER HAND,  
IS SOME-  
THING ELSE  
AGAIN.



EVEN SO, I WAS GLAD  
WHEN I FINALLY HIT THE  
WATER. I KNEW HOW  
TO SWIM.

AS IT TURNED OUT, THOUGH,  
I WASN'T IN THE CHANNEL ALL  
THAT LONG.

DAD! DAD! THERE'S  
A MAN IN THE  
WATER OFF THE  
STARBOARD  
BOW!

IT WAS A RIVER PLEASURE  
CRUISER, AN INLAND TOY!  
WHAT THE BLAZES WAS IT  
DOING OUT IN THE ENGLISH  
CHANNEL, NOT TEN MILES  
FROM THE FRENCH COAST?



SIMPLE QUESTION, SIMPLE ANSWER. THE 'TOY' WAS HERE FOR THE SAME REASON  
BRABHAM WAS. DUNKIRK. OPERATION  
DYNAMO, THE EVACUATION BY SEA OF  
THE BRITISH EXPEDITIONARY FORCE  
FROM FRANCE...

ANY MAN, AND ANY BOY.

THE NAME'S  
MANNERING,  
SQUADRON LEADER.  
TOM MANNERING.  
CAPTAIN OF THE  
GOOD SHIP,  
FLORRIE ROSE.

THIS YOUNG SCOUT'S  
MY CREW, MY SON,  
KEITH.

WELCOME ABOARD.



MY PLEASURE.

BUT YOU'RE  
MAD TO BE  
SAILING IN DAY-  
LIGHT-- THE  
LUFTWAFFE'S  
OUT, Y'KNOW.

I KNOW. WE SAW YOU SPLASH  
THOSE TWO JERRY FIGHTERS...

ME-109'S,  
DAD.

HARumph:  
WHATEVER.

THE ADMIRALTY SAYS  
THERE'S STILL MORE 'N A  
HUNDRED THOUSAND OF  
OUR LADS ON THAT BEACH,  
SQUADRON LEADER,  
WITH JERRY TANKS  
CLOSING IN ON 'EM...

...TAKING THEM OFF THE BEACH  
WITH DESTROYERS, COASTAL  
STEAMERS, CHANNEL FERRIES,  
RIVER FERRIES, BARSES, MOTOR  
LAUNCHES, YACHTS...

...TAKING THEM OFF WITH ANYTHING THAT  
COULD FLOAT-- AND ANY MAN FOOL  
ENOUGH TO SAIL THE DUNKIRK EXPRESS.

DO YOU WANT ME TO  
LEAVE 'EM THERE,  
JUST BECAUSE 'THE  
LUFTWAFFE'S OUT?

I DIDN'T  
THINK SO.

THAT WAS BEAUTIFUL, THE  
WAY YOU SHOT DOWN  
THAT LAST 100, SIR,  
REALLY SPOT ON!

ALL RIGHT, KEITH LAD,  
WE'VE DONE ENOUGH TALKIN':  
WE'VE STILL THREE HOURS  
SAVIN' TILL WE REACH DUNKIRK;  
IT'S TIME WE WERE ON OUR WAY!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

7

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WE HIT DUNKIRK AROUND TEA-TIME,  
THE SKY HAZY AND SHADOWED FROM  
BURNING FUEL TANKS, THE BURNING  
CITY BEYOND--IT SEEMED MORE LIKE  
DUSK THAN MID-AFTERNOON--AND THE  
AIR STANK.

SOMETHING OF A  
CHANGE FROM FLYING ABOVE THE  
WAR, IS IT NOT, JOHN KOWALSKI?  
IT SEEMS THE SKY IS STILL FOR  
GENTLEMEN, WHILE THIS...



TIRED, HUMAN?  
HOW CAN YOU  
BE TIRED--THE  
WAR HAS JUST  
BEGUN?

AND THERE IS SO  
MUCH FOR BOTH  
OF US TO DO.



WHAT?!? TELL  
ME! WHAT DO I  
HAVE TO DO TO  
GET OUT OF THIS.  
NIGHTMARE--  
TO DIE?!? TELL  
ME!!

MORE THAN  
YOU HAVE DONE  
TO DATE, MY  
SON-- MUCH  
MORE.



IT WAS LIKE SHOOTING FISH IN A BARREL--!

A VERY SMALL BARREL--

--JAMMED THICK WITH FISH.

WE NEVER HAD A CHANCE.

WHRAAMM!

KEITH! YOU AND MR. BRABHAM HELP GET THOSE MEN OUT OF THE WATER, WOUNDED FIRST! I'LL...

BLEEDING, BLOODY--! THE STEERING'S GONE!!

IT WASN'T JUST THE STEERING-- THE FLORRIE ROSE HAD LOST HER JOLLYBOAT AS WELL, SMASHED TO PIECES BY A NEAR MISS.

WE DID OUR BEST, THOUGH, GATHERING IN AS MANY SURVIVORS AS WE COULD.

THE ONLY PROBLEM WAS, WE WERE CRIPPLED--WE HAD TO RETURN THE MEN TO DUNKIRK. WE COULDN'T TAKE THEM HOME.

I'VE HAD A LOOK BELOW-- THE STARBOARD HULL AFT LOOKS LIKE A BLOODY SWISS CHEESE AND SHRAPNEL'S TORN THRU THE RUDDER CABLES.

I'M PRETTY SURE I CAN FIX THE DAMAGE BUT I'LL HAVE TO BEACH FLORRIE ROSE TO DO IT, AND THE JOB'LL TAKE A WHILE.

HEY, DAD, IF WE'RE STUCK HERE FOR A COUPLE OF HOURS--

--COULD I PLEASE GO ASHORE AND HAVE A LOOK AROUND? I PROMISE I'LL BE CAREFUL.

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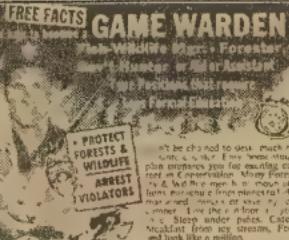
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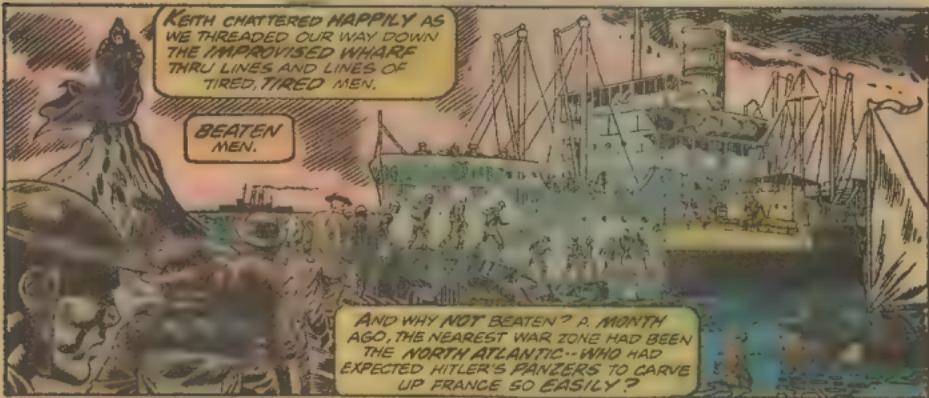
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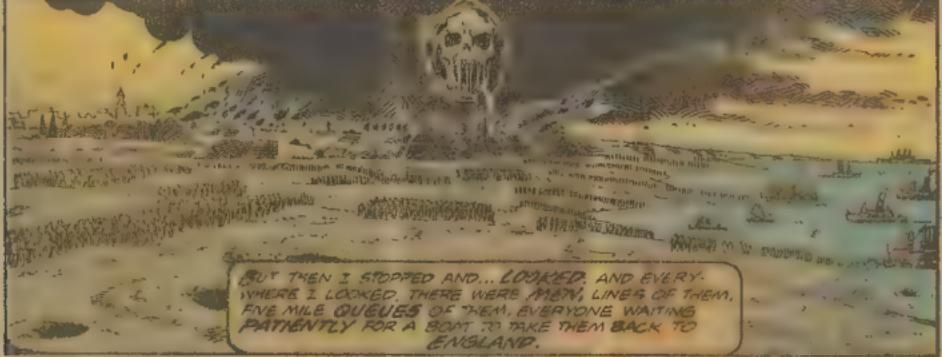
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BUT THEN I STOPPED AND... LOOKED. AND EVERY WHERE I LOOKED, THERE WERE METRES LINES OF THEM, FIVE MILE QUEUES OF THEM, EVERYONE WAITING PATIENTLY FOR A BOAT TO TAKE THEM BACK TO ENGLAND.

THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND - PLUS MEN CRAWLED INTO A TWENTY MILE STRETCH OF BEACH

PRISCILLA, TO SOME, AN INDECENTLY TEMPTING TARGET. TOO TEMPTING TO RESIST.

WUUURRRRRRRR

OR TO MISS!

SCATTER! YOU MEN! EVERYONE FIND COVER!!

THAT GOES FOR YOU, TOO, KEITH MANNERING!

BAD WEATHER KEPT JERRY AWAY THE LAST COUPLE OF DAYS...

LOOKS LIKE HE'S MAKING UP FOR LOST TIME.

THERE WERE MORE ATTACKS AS WE HEADED DOWN THE BEACH, BUT THE SAND ABSORBED MOST OF THE BOMBS' BLASTS - IT TOOK NEARLY A DIRECT HIT TO HURT ANYONE, MUCH LESS KILL EM...

KEITH SAID NOTHING. HE WAS TOO EXCITED; TOO... HAPPY.

STILL... MEN DIED ON THAT BEACH ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.

AND THEN WE LEFT THE BEACH AND FOUND OURSELVES IN DUNKIRK PROPER.

CAFE BELLE VUE

WHAT WAS LEFT OF IT.

THERE WAS NO SAND HERE, Y'SEE,  
AND THE BOMBS DID THEIR JOB  
WITH DEADLY EFFICIENCY. THE  
STREETS WERE FILLED WITH RUBBLE, THE  
HOSPITALS DOWN. LAND-OFFICE  
BOMBED.

I LANDED TO GO BACK,  
NOT REALLY KNOWIN' WHY, BUT KEITH SAID,  
NO!

HO-HADY 'SLEEVY  
ENOUGH WAR  
JUST YET

HE WANTED TO  
PRESS ON.

AND THEN, SUDDENLY, WE WERE OUT-  
SIDE DUNKIRK, MOVING DOWN A  
COUNTRY LANE--THE DAY GONE PEACE-  
FUL AND IDYLIC AROUND US--ALMOST  
AS IF THE WAR WAS SOME MADMAN'S  
FANTASY...

...A MOOD ONLY SLIGHTLY  
JARRED BY THE STINK OF  
GASOLINE AND THE DISTANT  
POKKATAPOKKATA OF ANTI-  
AIRCRAFT BATTERIES

I COULD HAVE KEPT ON GOING  
DOWN THAT LANE FOREVER.

BUT THE DECISION WASN'T UP TO ME.

HALT! STAND AND  
IDENTIFY YOURSELF...

WHAT THE... YOU'RE RAF--!  
WHAT RE YE DOIN' HERE,  
FOR PITY'S SAKE?

ARE YE DAFT OR  
SOMETHIN'? COMIN'  
UP HERE AN' BRINGIN'  
A KID WI' YE? THIS  
IS THE FRONT, MAN!

THE CORPORAL'S OFFICER WAS  
EVEN LESS EAGER TO SEE US.

WHAT DO YOU THINK  
THIS IS, SQUADRON  
LEADER THE HEIGHT  
OF THE BLOOD: RIVIERA  
TOURIST SEASON?"

I CAN  
GO...

I'M NOT  
INTERESTED,  
WE HAVE ENOUGH  
TO DO HERE  
WITHOUT HAVING  
TO NURSEMAID  
A PAIR OF BLOODY  
FOOLS WHO  
THINK THEY'RE  
OUT ON A  
SUNDAY  
LARK!



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# DIALOGUE WITH A DEAD MAN!

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Well, after asking you in WAR IS HELL #11 to "rejoin us in sixty days for another glimpse into Hell," it just so happened that Chris and Don needed 19 pages for their story, thus usurping "Dialogue with a Dead Man" for #12. But we thrive on mail, and since we haven't been getting enough to satiate us on this book, we're expecting every one of you reading this to send your comments on this 1st...

Don't let us down!

Dear Chris,

It seems like anything that I find good is doomed to a short existence, so I'll send my condolences now.

Though why I do like WAR IS HELL is hard to say, since I can see a number of things that could be worked on. For instance, what is Death's purpose in making Kolwalski inhabit various doomed bodies? I know he was cursed, but some higher purpose ought to be given for his quasi-existence. Does Death go along with a dying man's curse because it amuses him to see someone try to prevent the doomed from dying at their appointed time? Does Kolwalski exist because his guilt about not preventing the disaster at his home town keep him from his eternal rest? I think this is the case, and would make for a strong reason for Kolwalski's presence in the series.

Without actually knowing what changes Gerber made in your script in the first issue, I can hardly pass on the wisdom of what he did, but I will say that that first story used more horrific clichés than I've seen in a long time. Someone had to be responsible for that.

The artwork: Anybody would be better than Dick Ayers on pencils, and anybody would be better than Sal Trapani on inks. I really like Frank Springer's inking. He almost saved Ayers' pencils. Put him on Perlin and you might have something.

Brian Earl Brown  
1001 E. Cedar Street  
Mishawaka, IN 46544

Don't send your condolences yet, Brian—we're still alive and kickin' even if our protagonist ain't quite. As for the various points you mention, Cheerful Chris will be striving to clear them up as the series moves along. However, you have pretty much answered your own question about what keeps Kowalski coming back—guilt.

And be sure to let Happy Herbie Trimpe know what you think of his debut on WAR IS HELL; he's been itchin' to draw a war series almost as long as he's been wantin' to try a western!

Dear Chris, Tony, Dick, Frank, Roy and Stan,

WAR IS HELL is a fantastic mag. Maybe that's wrong. The word is really fantastic. The word is razor-sharp realistic. WIH is very blunt and very sad. Passages like "My



papa was a fool an my papa died for nothing! You just don't put them words in comic mags! And that bloody bayonet—that brought home to me the real truth about war.

War has come to be something we accept as a part of our lives. Bad. When we accept systematic taxpayer slaughter as part of life, there is something very wrong. "There are certain causes worth fighting for." Wrong. There are some causes worth dying for on the individual level. There is no cause worth killing for on any level.

WAR IS HELL reminds me of Harvey Kurtzman's war comics for E.C. back in the 1950's. It's about time this type of thing came back. I wish you'd ship copies in bulk to the Pentagon and the war-agencies all over the world.

P.M.M. Neal Meyer  
Biddeford, WA 99322

Strong reactions, Neal—but then, maybe that's exactly what it takes to keep this country out of war. Who knows? All we can say is that it's up to everyone to do what they can to keep World War III from becoming a reality. According to researcher David McClelland in the January 1975 PSYCHOLOGY TODAY, we may be heading for war by 1980, based on analyses of popular attitudes in the media.

We don't want that hypothesis to be proven correct; nor do we think that you do. War is not glamorous or pretty or a game. It is Hell.

Ack John Kowalski.



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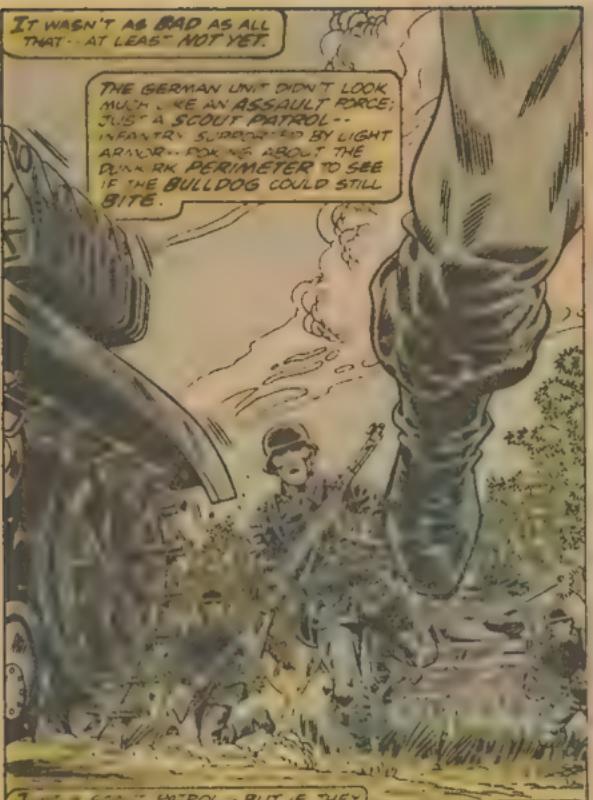
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THAT'S HOW THE PRE-FIGHT BEGAN-- ALMOST BY ACCIDENT, REALLY-- MERCELESS BOLDNESS NO-HOLDS-BARRED-- THE ARTILLERY WITH THEIR BACKS TO THE WALL, THE GERMANS SENSING THAT THIS BULLDOG WAS ON ITS LAST LEGS, READY TO BE PULLED DOWN...



JUST A SCOUT PATROL--BUT IF THEY TOOK THIS BRIDGE AND CALLED FOR THE REST OF GUDELIAN'S PANZERS... DUNKIRK WOULD BE A BLOODBATH BY MORNING



FOR WASN'T IT A GRAND AND GLORIOUS THING--FOR A MAN TO DIE IN BATTLE FOR HIS COUNTRY?

A MAN--

--OR A FIFTEEN-YEAR OLD BOY.

MR. BRABHAM, I CAN'T WATCH ANY LONGER. I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING--I'VE GOT TO HELP!

KEITH, NO! DON'T BE A BLOODY FOOL!

KEITH WASN'T LISTENING.

C'MON, LADS, AT 'EM! AT 'EM! D'YOU WANT TA LIVE FOREVER, THEN?



I SCRAMBLED FOR THE BRIDGE  
LIKE A MADMAN, DODGING  
BULLETS AS FRANTICALLY AS  
THE NEXT MAN--FORGETTING  
FOR A MOMENT THAT I WAS  
ALREADY DEAD--

--THAT MUST HAVE GIVEN  
DEATH A GIGGLE OR TWO--  
ME, I WAS SCARED STIFF...

BUT THEN, THINGS WERE BAD ALL OVER. THE TWO  
UNITS WERE PRETTY EVENLY MATCHED, BUT THE  
TANKS GAVE JERRY THE EDGE--AND THEY WERE  
PUSHING THAT EDGE FOR ALL IT WAS WORTH!



WHICH WAS WHERE YOUNG KEITH  
DECIDED TO PLAY THE HERO, ONE  
BOY STANDING ALONE AGAINST  
THE BOCHE HORDES...

...BOYS DO THAT ALL THE  
TIME IN STORY BOOKS,  
OR SO I'M TOLD.

BOYS ARE BRAVE AND HEROIC  
AND WELL-NISCH IMMORTAL  
AND WHEN PEOPLE DIE, THEY  
DIE CLEAN AND PREFERABLY  
OFF THE PAGE.

I GAVE HIM ABOUT TEN SECONDS  
BEFORE THE GERMANS SHOT HIM TO  
PIECES.

AND I HEARD DEATH  
LAUGHING IN MY EAR.  
AND I RAN.

KEITH!!

LET ME UP,  
MR. BRABHAM,  
PLEASE! I  
WANT TO  
HELP!

YOU'RE IN THE WAY,  
BOY. ALL YOU CAN DO  
IS GET SOME GOOD  
MEN KILLED TRYING  
TO SAVE YOUR SILLY  
LITTLE LIFE.



NOW, STAY DOWN!  
AND LEAVE THE WAR  
TO MEN WHO KNOW  
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AT LEAST THAT  
SHUT HIM UP.

GOOD THINGS, TOO BECAUSE  
BY THE TANKS, THINGS WERE  
HAPPENING.

--BUT IT'S SAID THAT GOD  
LOOKS AFTER FOOLS AND  
LADS!

SCORE ONE FOR GO-

NOT ENGLISH, YE  
STUPID GIT--SCOTS!  
AH'M A SCOTSMAN  
AN' PROUD OF IT, TOO!

POK!

ACHTUNG!  
ACHTUNG! EIN  
ENGLANDER  
SOLDATEN!!

THE MAN WAS  
A FOOL, NO TWO  
WAYS ABOUT IT...

GET IN THERE!



EWANG!

GOOD OH,  
CORP' RAL!  
YOU GOT  
HIM! YOU  
GOT THE  
SWINE!

THOSE POOR SODS  
CAN'T BANK  
THEY NEVER HAD A CHANCE.

AND ONLY ONE GOT OUT.

HE SCREAMED AS HE RAN, SHRILL,  
ANIMAL ULULATIONS THAT FROZE  
US WHERE WE STOOD, AND ALL  
AROUND US, EVERYTHING STOPPED.  
THE WAR DECLARED A ONE-MINUTE  
RECESS, THE BIG TRAGEDY YIELDING  
TO THE LITTLE ONE.

PLEADED...

HIS DYING EYES  
QUESTIONING,  
'WHY ME?...'

... AS HE TRIIPPED...

... AND FELL.

OH MY GOD  
OH MY DEAR,  
MERCIFUL LORD  
GOD, NO.

'WHY ME? OH GOD, WHY ME?!?  
AND WHY LIKE THIS?!?

HE'D  
STOPPED  
SCREAMING

WE'D BE DEAD SOON, BUT WITH BURNS  
LIKE THAT, SOON CAN BE AN ETERNITY.

## AN LED'S SIGN...

This is it! The recognition we've all been waiting for! You've read movie reviews, book reviews, record reviews, right? Well, now at last, the nation's top literary critics have begun reviewing comics—or, at least, a book about Marvel Comics! I know you're as anxious to read their verdict as I was, so without any further ado, here's the first batch of notices for the ORIGINS OF MARVEL COMICS—.

Ray Bradbury, in the LOS ANGELES TIMES "Stan Lee's new volume is the very stuff for you. It is, as he puts it, 'a pictorial tonic to relieve the awesome affliction that threatens us all: the endlessly spreading virus of too much reality in a world that is losing its heroes.' Stan's book is to me a better light bulb. Fruvous? Perhaps. Frightening? Sometimes. With hidden meanings. Stan Lee's comics are better than Lichtenstein can ever hope to be." THE DAILY ENTERPRISE-SUN: "Comicbook heroes are making a comeback. Nowhere is that comeback put together so attractively as in this winner by Stan Lee. It's the best of the comic collections." SAN

FRANCISCO EXAMINER: "The name Stan Lee is known to millions of comic-book fans all over the world. Marvel Comics sell in dozens of countries at a rate of 75 million a year." PLAYBOY: "Very much fun. People have written graduate papers on just such themes, and for them—and all other true believers—we're heading for the newsstand." CUE: "These are fairy tales for older people. They are fun, like Vonnegut and Tolkien. The last place where you can recapture the fantasy—the wonder—" BOOK-OF-THE-MONTH CLUB NEWS: "A snappy new book. One of the good things about Lee's ORIGINS is that for each hero discussed he reproduces the subject's first adventure story along with a more recent episode." WOMAN'S WEAR DAILY: "Lee—might almost be a movie director using the storyboard approach." FAMILY WEEKLY: "Stan Lee is in 'big time' publishing." THE PITT NEWS: "This work—is integral to the development of each of the fictional characters created by Marvel. It is a genealogy, a bible. The greatest criticism of the book is that it is not enough." BERGEN COUNTY RECORD: ORIGINS holds

ITEM! What's that, Tigers? You say you've been silently...scanning those lifting letters pages you've become so avariciously addicted to while reading our titanic titles to these many Marvelous years...and you've yet to find the startling new MARVEL VALUE STAMPS we've been promising to toss at ya for the past few months? Well, don't fret, Fearless Ones, your eagle eyes aren't failing you—it's just that the ever-unpredictable inmates of your batty Marvel Bullpen have decided to go all out as usual in their quest to provide the most royally rapturous recreation possible for True Believers everywhere. When the now-legendary SECOND SERIES of MVStamps finally assault your wide-open orbs in just a few short weeks, they will stun you, they will shock you, they will leave you utterly speechless—for in all your years as madcap Marvelites, you will never in your memory have seen the like of what we have in store for you! And remember, even though the concept is so darningly different, you'll still be able to treat yourself to the same glamorous goodies and more when all one hundred startling stamps are at last in your pulse-pounding possession! Truth to tell, we wouldn't do all this if we didn't love ya!

ITEM! Everyone here has heard the name DAMON RUNYON. He's the scintillating author whose singular view of the screwy city called New York has delighted the hearts of millions everywhere, and birthed such world-renowned productions as "Guys and

one's Interest—Lee's writing is as colorful as the book's reprints of historic back issues. What also holds the reader is its recounting of the feeling that went into the creation of the superheroes." THE RUTGERS DAILY TARGUM: "The one you've been waiting for. The one book you can't afford to miss." PHILADELPHIA BULLETIN: "Stan Lee, guiding genius of 'Marvelmania' in comic books, has included some gloriously marvel-maniacal comics in this sampler. Even adults, especially gallery-goers, should enjoy the artistry of Marvel Comics books; far and away the leaders in their field." CHICAGO NEWS: "True believers, step right up!"

And that's only a sample of the hundreds that are pouring in! Who says comics aren't an idea whose time has come? Who says your blushing Bullpen hasn't achieved the year's most stupendous literary breakthrough? Who says this isn't the Marvel Age of Comics? And before some wiseguy shouts "I say!", I'm cuttin' out—it's time to take a troll to tea!

Excelsior!

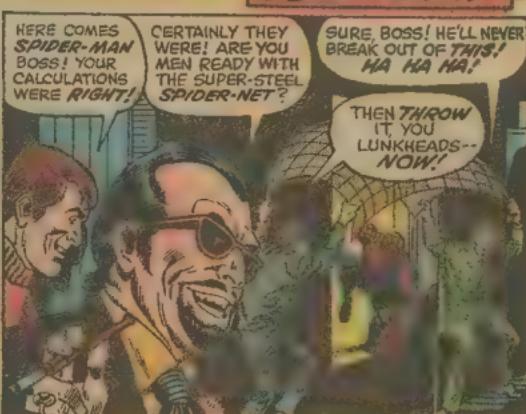
Dolls" and "Pocketful of Miracles"! A genius, right? So, who'd ever have thought that TONY (The Tiger) ISABELLA, bare-faced youth from Cleve-land, would someday move to Fun City and directly into the penthouse apartment once owned by the illustrious Mr. Runyon himself. We won't say that this startling fact has had any sort of adverse effect on the Tigerish One, but we've noticed a disturbing tendency for names like "Sky Masterson" and "Apple Annie" to pop up in Tony's scripts of late. A subtle influence—or perhaps more? (Wow, what a strange idea—the GHOST RIDER scripted by a ghost writer!)

ITEM! Hey, hope you're one of the lucky ones who's been latching onto the minor masterpieces JUDO JIM STARLIN has been turning out every sixty days on the all-new, all-improved WARLOCK strip. As far as we can tell, STRANGE TALES fanatics everywhere are flipping their collective corks over the spectacular Mr. Starlin's dynamic drawings (not to mention his sizzling scripting and capricious coloring). In fact, the only discouraging words we've heard at all thus far have come from a gregarious grey gargoyle called The Golem—and we suspect that he might just be a wee bit prejudiced! Also, let's not forget Dynamic DAVE COCKRUM, whose fan dream of a lifetime came true when he was chosen to illustrate the equally-all-new, equally-all-improved adventures of the X-cruciatingly X-cutting X-MEN, who are currently cavorting in their brand-new GIANT-SIZE mag!

Who says this ain't the Marvel Age of Sensational Second Chances?

ITEM! And just so, you don't think we're sitting on our slightly-wilted jalapenos, we're gonna let you in on a few searing secrets! Listen closely now...we're gonna whisper 'cause we don't want the competition to hear the names of our newest stars! They'll be popping up in their own spanking-new features in the next few months—and we want you to be prepared for 'em! So look out for BLOODSTONE—he stalks the shadowed lands WHERE MONSTERS DWELL! And the sinister SCARECROW will be waiting for you in the DEAD OF NIGHT! The mind-boggling MODRED THE MYSTIC will be battling arcane forces in the back of GIANT-SIZE WEREWOLF! And lastly, prepare yourself for the coming of SKULL THE SLAYER, a character with a story-line so powerful, we haven't decided where we're gonna present it just yet. Hang in there, Pilgrim—the best is yet to come. (And if you have a few pauly shuckles left over, you might want to pick up the first pulse-pounding issue of a little item called GIANT-SIZE INVADERS! It features the all-new adventures of CAPTAIN AMERICA and BUCKY, the savage SUB-MARINER, and the Original HUMAN TORCH and TORO, fighting for freedom in the torrid early days of World War Two! It's a concept so off-beat, you're just gonna have to love it!) And on that note, we return you to your regularly-scheduled Marvel mag.

# SPIDER-MAN in THE TRAP



THE MINUTE PASSED, THE RECESS ENDED,  
THE WAR CRANKED UP AGAIN--AS IF  
NOTHINGS HAD HAPPENED. AFTER ALL, WHAT  
WAS ONE CORPSE AMONG FORTY MILLION?

A MAN, LIKE OTHER MEN.

RIGHT, YOU LOT--GET  
BACK HERE ACROSS  
THE BRIDGE AND BE  
QUICK ABOUT IT!

WE'RE  
PULLING  
OUT!

YOU HEARD THE OFFICER,  
KEITH! RUN FOR IT AN'  
KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN!

BE A SHAME  
TO GET IT BLOWN  
OFF NOW.

LAST ONES  
ARE ACROSS,  
LEFTEANANT.

RIGHT! EVERYBODY  
DOWN! WE'RE GOING  
TO BLOW THE BRIDGE!

THAT MEANS  
YOU, RAF, AND  
YER BOY!

KEITH AND I MADE IT BACK  
TO THE BEACH WITHOUT ANY  
TROUBLE--OUR HIGHLAND  
FRIENDS MOVING OFF TO  
JOIN THE LAST QUEUE.

IF THEY WERE LUCKY,  
THEY'D BE OFF TONIGHT...

...IF NOT...

**THE FLORRIE ROSE**  
LOOKED AS GOOD AS NEW,  
THE BATTERED HULL  
PATCHED WITH CANVAS  
AND SCRAP PLYWOOD--  
KEITH'S DAD HAD EVEN  
MANAGED TO SCROUNGE  
A NEW JOLLYBOAT...

**HE'D BEEN SILENT EVER SINCE WE LEFT THE BRIDGE.**  
HE'D AGED, TOO, INSIDE.  
GROWN UP.

**I SAW A MAN DIE, DAD, RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME. HE'S BURNED,**  
DAD... IT WAS HORRIBLE...  
HORRIBLE...

KEITH LAD, YOU'RE  
BACK. GOOD TO  
SEE...

WHAT IS  
IT, SON?  
WHAT'S  
WRONG?

THERE, THERE,  
SON, HAVE A GOOD  
CRY...

KEITH SAID  
NOTHING AS  
WE CLIMBED  
ABOARD.

DAD,  
I... I...

...I UNDERSTAND  
HOW YOU FEEL,  
KEITH. GOD PITY  
ME, I'D UNDER-  
STAND.

BECAUSE I  
WAS IN A WAR, TOO.  
I SAW MEN DIE,  
TOO MANY MEN--  
I'D PRAYED YOU'D  
BE SPARED  
THAT...

WE SAILED FOR  
DOVER AT DUSK,  
FULLY LOADED,  
AND FOR ONCE, I  
FELT PRETTY  
GOOD-- I  
FIGURED I'D  
WON THIS  
ROUND...

ONE LOOK AND I KNEW, THAT FOUR YEARS AND  
SEVEN DAYS FROM TODAY, IN A DITCH OUTSIDE THE  
CITY OF CAEN, IN NORMANDY, LIEUTENANT KEITH  
MANNERING, BRITISH ARMY, WOULD DIE, CUT IN  
HALF BY A MACHINE GUN BURST.

AND THEN, I LOOKED AROUND  
AND I LEARNED DIFFERENT.  
AND I KNEW THAT NOTHINGS I  
DID REALLY MATTERED A  
TINKER'S DAMN.

HE WOULD DIE--  
AND I'D BE THERE TO WATCH  
HIM.

NEXT ISSUE:

**NIGHTMARE IN NORWAY!**

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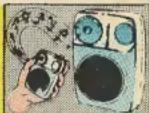
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